

History of the Mission Guard, California Militia 1864-1866

This history was completed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in conjunction with the California National Guard and the California State Library.

Digitized by the History Office, Camp San Luis Obispo, 16 January 2015

MISSION GUARD

MISSION GUARD

Mission Guard, Unattached, Second Brigade

Reference: Dead Office File, Row 7, File 2

Location: Mission Dolores, San Francisco County

Mustered in May 24, 1864

Mustered out July 25, 1866

Location: San Francisco, San Francisco County

Commanding Officers

Name	Rank	Commission
Peter E. Farrell, Captain	May 10, 1864	May 24, 1864
John B. Griffith, First Lieut.	May 10, 1864	May 24, 1864
Peter E. Farrell, Captain (Re-elected May 15, 1865)		
John B. Griffith, First Lieut. (Re-elected May 15, 1865)		

Activities:

The Mission Guard, Mission Dolores, San Francisco was organized as a volunteer military unit May 10, 1864. An election was held at this meeting whereby Peter E. Farrell was chosen Captain and John B. Griffith, First Lieutenant. The necessary Bond was posted and the company received forty stand of arms and accoutrements December twenty-sixth of that year. The membership had increased from thirty-one at organization to forty-three men at the time the arms were received. It is doubtful if the corps received uniforms during their short existence, as no mention is made of clothing in the company's correspondence or on the Muster Out Roll.

The Mission Guard was one of the many companies mustered into the State Service during the War of the Rebellion for home protection, and to aid in quelling the Secessionists who were particularly active in San Francisco and the adjoining counties. However, after the close of the War, the Military Law of 1866 was passed whereby a Board of Location and Organization was established to render decisions regarding what companies, due to their location with reference to defense purposes, and also companies located in mining districts with a transient population which would be unable to keep their units up to the required standards of the Law, should be disbanded. This ruling materially reduced the militia. The Mission Guard was deemed unnecessary for defense purposes and was therefore, mustered out of service July 25, 1866, in compliance with the Law. The arms consisting of muskets were returned to the State.

On September 1, 1864, succeed James Shepard, and agreed to take the following oath: -000-